

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 09053 201638Z

44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 OPR-02 SY-02 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 /042 W

----- 094777

P 201523Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1409

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9053

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: POLYTECHNION DEMONSTRATION: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF ATHENS 9020

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS LAST NIGHT I LED OFF WITH A STATEMENT REFLECTING MY UNHAPPINESS WITH THE NOVEMBER 17 MARCH PAST OUR EMBASSY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE POLYTECHNION ANNIVERSARY -- AS I AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DOING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS WITH OTHER GOG MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS (REFTEL). I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I FAILED TO SEE ANY CONNECTION WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THE POLYTECHNION EVENTS OF 1973 AND THE USG OR OUR EMBASSY HERE IN ATHENS, THAT I FAILED TO SEE WHY THE GOG HAD APPROVED OF ROUTE OF THE MARCH, AND THAT I WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE EPISODE COULD ONLY BE HARMFUL TO US-GREEK RELATIONS AND, INDEED, THE TRUE INTERESTS OF THE GOG AND THE GREEK PEOPLE THEMSELVES. MY STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS WERE A FULLER ELABORATION OF SOME EARLIER COMMENTS I HAD MADE TO BITSIOS BY TELEPHONE THE PREVIOUS DAY.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT THE MARCH PAST OUR EMBASSY WAS UNFORTUNATE AND SAID THAT HE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 09053 201638Z

PERSONALLY HAD DONE HIS UTMOST TO PREVENT IT. HE

WAS EQUALLY UNEQUIVOCAL IN STATING THAT HE AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THE POLYTECHNION EVENTS OF 1973 AND THE USG. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE ORGANIZERS OF THE MARCH HAD ANTICIPATED A CROWD RUNNING INTO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS AND HAD TOLD THE POLICE THAT MANY ELEMENTS WERE INSISTING UPON A MARCH PAST THE US EMBASSY. THE ORGANIZERS TOLD THE POLICE THAT IF THE MARCH WERE PERMITTED THEY FELT THAT, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSURE AN ABSOLUTELY PEACEFUL AND NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, THE ORGANIZERS SAID, IF THE POLICE REFUSED TO ALLOW THE MARCH TO THE EMBASSY THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT SOME GROUPS WOULD PROCEED TO THE US EMBASSY ANYWAY AND THERE WAS THE DANGER OF A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE. ACCORDINGLY, BITSIOS WENT ON, THE CHIEF OF THE ATHENS POLICE STRONGLY URGED THE GOG TO ALLOW THE MARCH OUT OF THE DOWNTOWN ATHENS AREA AND PAST THE US EMBASSY, AND THE GOG RELUCTANTLY AGREED. THE GOG ALSO TOOK THE FULLEST POSSIBLE MEASURES, BITSIOS SAID, TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DAMAGE OR HARM OF ANY KIND TO USG PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL AT THE EMBASSY AND, HE CONCLUDED, EVERYTHING WORKED OUT ABOUT AS FORESEEN. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN US-GREEK RELATIONS AND THE SOLUTION OF SOME MAJOR PENDING PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE CYPRUS QUESTION, WOULD RESULT IN A FAR BETTER CLIMATE IN GREECE AS FAR AS THE US WAS CONCERNED AND THAT NEXT YEAR AND THEREAFTER SUCH COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS WOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED IN ANY WAY WITH US POLICIES OR ACTIONS.

3. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I APPRECIATED HIS EXPLANATION AND HIS EFFORTS AND THAT WHILE I COULD UNDERSTAND THE THINKING OF THE GOG ON THIS MATTER I CONTINUED TO REGARD THE MARCH PAST OUR EMBASSY -- WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS -- AS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE AND UNJUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, I SAID, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE VERY STRONG EFFORTS BEING MADE BY BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS TO REPAIR AND REBUILD A SOUND SET OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 09053 201638Z

ABOUT THE MATTER, ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBTS WHATEVER IN THE GOG ABOUT HOW WE FELT ABOUT IT. KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS09053  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750404-1038  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751126/aaaaawsp.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 9020  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLYTECHNION DEMONSTRATION: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS  
**TAGS:** PINT, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006